

REMARKS

The Amendment

Claims 12 and 16 are amended to be in independent forms, which include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4, 5, 14, and 17 are amended to change the claim dependency.

Claims 1-3, 7-11, and 18-21 are canceled to accelerate the allowance of this application. Applicants reserve the rights of filing one or more continuation applications directed to the canceled matter.

No new matter is added in any of the amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter all the amendments.

35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claims 2 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2 and 7-8 are canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 19 and 20 are canceled.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim.

Claim 3 is canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Maxwell et al 5,585,254.

Claims 1-3, 7-11, 15 and 18 are canceled. Claims 4-6 are amended to be dependent upon an allowable claim, i.e., Claim 12. Claim 17 is amended to be dependent upon an allowable claim, i.e., Claim 16. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 4-6 and 17 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tam et al (Virology 193, 812-824, 1993).

Claims 1-3 and 21 are canceled. Claims 4-6 are amended to be dependent upon an allowable claim, i.e., Claim 12. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 4-6 should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12, 13, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

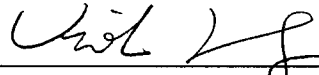
Applicant has amended Claims 12, 13, and 16, which are rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, the objection to Claims 12, 13, and 16 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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